

REMARKS

The August 2, 2002 office action objected to certain claims under 37 CFR 1.126 and 37 CFR 1.75(c), and rejected certain claims under 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103 (each rejection based on the Skelton reference). For the purposes of enabling the Examiner to prepare for the upcoming telephone interview, Applicant submits that the new claims 15-55 are sufficient to overcome the objections under 37 CFR 1.126 and 37 CFR 1.75(c) because the claim numbering of the new claims is proper and because the multiply dependent claiming problems of the original claims have been resolved. For the purposes of enabling the Examiner to prepare for the upcoming telephone interview, and in response to each the novelty and obviousness concerns, Applicant explains that the Skelton reference (Patent No. 5,642,590) on which the Office bases its §102 and §103 concerns involves 6 or more struts that lie on the surfaces of three or more planes and involves circumferential guying (as opposed to radial, linear, or internal guying). Significantly, Skelton does not disclose a structure having a hyperbolic arrangement of struts (see Applicant's new independent claims 15, 20, 24 and 49), nor a structure having a hyperbolic paraboloidal arrangement of struts (see Applicant's new independent claim 35), nor a structure having a radial arrangement of struts (see Applicant's new independent claim 39), nor a structure having a polygonal arrangement of struts and an inner and outer set of guys (see Applicant's new claims 43), nor a structure having a radial arrangement of guys (see Applicant's new claim 20, 29, 47), nor a structure having an internal arrangement of guys (see Applicant's new claim 24, 30, 48). Additionally, Skelton does not disclose an arrangement of struts in only two planes as in Applicant's new claim 31.

CONCLUSION

The applicant believes all concerns have been addressed by the proposed amendments and that all claims remaining in the case are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the remaining claims 15-55 as proposed for amendment is respectfully requested so that the

Applicant may conduct a telephone interview with the Examiner on or before Wednesday, November 27, 2002.

Dated this 22nd day of November, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

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